

# AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

AND

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No. I.

## DUCATS.

"How now! a rat? Dead, for a ducat, dead."

Hamlet, Act III., Sc. IV.

The writer of the Article "Numismatics in Poetry", in last November's Number of the JOURNAL, seems to have forgotten altogether Shakespeare's frequent mention of the "Ducat". Independently of the *striking passage* quoted as our motto, the whole plot of "The Merchant of Venice" turns on the "three thousand ducats" which Antonio, the Merchant, borrows from Shylock. They are therefore repeatedly mentioned in the play. Jessica too gives a ducat to the "merry devil" Launcelot, and robs her father of his ducats, who thereupon bewails his loss most tragico-comically:

"My daughter!—O my ducats!—O my daughter!  
Fled with a Christian?—O my Christian ducats!—  
Justice! the law! my ducats and my daughter!  
A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats,  
Of double ducats, stol'n from me by my daughter!"

Act II., Sc. VIII.

The Ducats of Venice, however, were always called "Sequins" (*Zecchini*), a name, some say, derived from "*Zecca*", a Mint. But this etymology is quite incorrect, indeed an example of "husteron-proteron", or what is called in Anglo-Saxon English "putting the Cart before the Horse". The word "*Zecchino*" is a corruption of "*Cyzicenus*", meaning "a gold coin of Cyzicus". This Mysian city, situated on the Propontis, or Sea of Marmora, was famous in antiquity for its gold "*stateres*", which circulated widely under the name of "*Cyziceni*". There is a wood-cut of one of them in that indispensable companion of the numismatist, Dr. Wm. Smith's "Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography". Hence the "*Zecca*" was so called from the "*Zecchino*", first struck by the Venetians in 1280, as a substitute for the Cyzicene gold coin, and not the "*Zecchino*" from the "*Zecca*". Edmund Flagg, in his interesting "Venice; the City of the Sea",\* gives the same explanation. But the "Ducat" proper had begun to be issued in another part of Italy more than a century before. Roger II., king of Sicily (1101-1154), in his capacity of Duke of Apulia, had caused it to be coined as early as 1140. It bore the figure of Christ, together with a legend which was transferred to the Sequins of Venice, was continued on them down to the extinction of her independence under the doge Ludovico Manin in 1797, and was even adopted by the cynical Austrians till they ceased, in 1822, the emission of the piece. This legend, which, on the reverse of the Sequins, surrounds a Saint encompassed by stars in an oval, is: "*Sit tibi Christe datus quem tu regis iste ducatus*", To thee, O Christ, be given this duchy which thou rulest. The obverse of the Sequins, or Venetian Ducats, represents St. Mark delivering to the kneeling doge the standard of the cross. While the name given to these latter indicates the intimate commercial relations of the great north-Italian port with the Byzantine empire, the appellation "Ducat", attributed to a similar piece of money by the southern Italians, was simply derived from the last word in the inscription which it bore.

The origin of the Ducat has been traced by others to Longinus, exarch of Ravenna in the sixth century (568-584), who was the first of a series of such viceroys sent out from Constantinople while the greater part of Italy was possessed by the Lombards.† However this may be, it was the adoption of these coins by the republic of Venice which brought them into general favor, and the Genoese and the Hungarians imitated them from the Venetians. In the legend, as above cited, may

\* Vol. I., p. 100, n.

† *L'Art de Vérifier les Dates*, Pt. II., Vol. IV., p. 372.

be detected, we think, a hypocritical appeal, on the part of princes who were legally but delegates of the Eastern Emperor, to a higher law—the government of Christ—as a cloak to their covert, but ultimately open and successful, assumption of independent authority. This ambiguity of meaning would have been, on that theory, acceptable alike to the exarch of Ravenna, the duke of Apulia, and the doge of Venice.

In modern days the Ducats of Holland have been, and are still, the best known to the mercantile world. They bear, on the obverse, a knight erect, in armor, holding in his right hand a drawn sword, and, in his left, a bundle of seven arrows, typifying the seven United Provinces. The legend is *CONCORDIA RES PARVAE CRESCUNT*. The inscription on the reverse: *MO. NETA AUR. EA REG. NI BELGII AD LEGEM IMPERII*, "Gold Coin of the Kingdom of Belgium, according to the Law of the Empire", requires explanation.

The law of the German Empire referred to was enacted at a Diet in Augsburg, 1559, and prescribed that the standard of fineness should be 23 $\frac{2}{3}$  Carats, or 986 thousandths, and that from a Mark of such gold were to be coined 67 Ducats of 53.87 Troy grains each.\* The piece thus authorized gradually supplanted the "gold-gulden", or golden florin, previously in vogue; and, as the period of Holland's commercial supremacy immediately ensued, it was natural for that country to adopt this favorite denomination of money. Not that she was politically connected with the Empire. This had ceased to be in any sense true after the abdication of Charles V. in 1556; and when, in 1815, the appellation of "Kingdom" was first given to the united Belgic and Batavian provinces, the old "Holy Roman Empire" was no more. The popularity of the Ducat continuing down to our own day, it is still, in spite of the secession of Belgium in 1830, coined under the Belgian name by the Dutch government, not as a constituent part of their regular series, but as an article of commerce largely exported.†

In the unsuccessful insurrection of the Poles in 1830-1, that heroic people issued gold pieces of this same description, and only distinguishable from the Dutch through the mint-marks. These, in the Polish, are an Eagle, the glorious white eagle of that now extinguished monarchy, and a Torch; in the Dutch they are the Caduceus, or wand of Mercury, and a Dagger.

The remarkable fineness of the Ducat is worthy of attention. While .900 only is the usual "titre" of the gold coins of the present day, this one exceeds that limit by many thousandths. "Dukaten-gold" and "Or de Ducat" are synonymous, in German and French respectively, with "very fine gold". Our learned and obliging friend Mr. Dubois writes to us from the Mint at Philadelphia: "Ducat-gold, like sequin-gold, was no doubt originally supposed to be absolutely pure; at any rate, as good as the aureus and bezant of earlier times. They were probably not able to make it better than 984 to 990, and so settled on the former as a standard. It is quite too flexible". From the highly instructive, and now very scarce, work already referred to, produced by Messrs. Dubois and Eckfeldt as collaborators, we are enabled to give the value of the Ducat in U. S. coin as \$2.26.‡

In times like these, one can hardly be expected to be able to exhibit many specimens of a gold coin, even though so moderate in metallic worth. We can however illustrate our observations by the accompanying examples from our Cabinet:§

1. A "Gold-gulden" of the Emperor Maximilian I. (MAXIMILIANVS. ROMA. REX.) and the city of Frankfort. The date 1496, on this primitive form of Ducat, is interesting from the peculiar archaic form of the 4, as used on the first introduction of the Arabic numerals, and resembling the Greek Omega.
2. A double Ducat of Ferdinand and Isabella, with their busts facing, and, on the reverse, two Ts as a mint-mark, indicating Toledo as the place of its origin.
3. A Ducat of John Casimir, King of Poland, and the city of Dantzic, 1660.
4. A Coronation-Ducat of Augustus II., King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, 1697, representing him on horseback in Polish costume.
5. A square Ducat of Nuremberg, celebrating the completion of the Seventeenth Century.
6. A Venetian Sequin of Doge Louis Manin.
- 7 & 8. A Ducat, 1849, and a double Ducat, 1854, of Holland, both splendid proofs.
9. A Polish Ducat of 1831, with the Eagle explained above.
10. A Hungarian, or Kremnitz, Ducat of 1848, with the emperor Ferdinand I. (who resigned in that year in favor of his nephew the present emperor Francis Joseph), at full length, and, on the reverse, "Saint Mary, Mother of God, Patroness of Hungary".

\* Eckfeldt and Du Bois, *Manual of Gold and Silver Coins*, p. 58. According to this calculation the "Mark" would be about 7.52 oz. Troy.

† Eckfeldt and Du Bois, *op. cit.* p. 91. The money of the United Provinces, or Republic of Holland, is however inscribed as belonging to the Belgic, a designation at variance with correct ethnology, and leading to much confusion in the classification of coins. See, for instance, the Mickley Catalogue, in which a number of Dutch pieces are placed under the head "Coins of Belgium".

‡ *Manual*, &c. p. 195.

§ This Paper was read before the Society, and the Pieces were shown, Thursday, April 23.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

## AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—*The American Numismatic and Archæological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archæological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "ROBERT HEWITT, JR., 93 Wall St., Cor. Sec'y," will receive prompt attention.*

*Regular Meeting, April 9, 1868.*—President Ten Eyck in the chair.

The Annual Report of the Corresponding Secretary, that of the Curator, and that of the Librarian, were read and ordered on file.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted and referred to the Finance Committee.

The Lincoln Medal Committee presented a Report, which was accepted and ordered on file.

The Editorial Committee asked leave to defer handing in their Report on the Journal till the next Meeting, which was granted.

President Ten Eyck, on vacating the chair, addressed the Society, and appointed Messrs. Parish and Groh a Committee to conduct Mr. Anthon, President Elect, to the chair. On taking the chair President Anthon read the following

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

"Brethren of The American Numismatic and Archæological Society:—I assume the office of your President, with thanks to you for your suffrages, and with an entire willingness to grapple with its difficulties for the ensuing year. I do so, however, after having expressed in the first instance, great reluctance to be considered a candidate, a reluctance which was in no degree affected; and I should not have consented ultimately, had I not failed to induce others, fitter than myself, to allow themselves to be nominated. The President of a Society like ours, in a Metropolis like this, ought, in my opinion, to be a man of wealth, and consequent social position, the proprietor of a library, gallery, and collections of various kinds; he should be a man of hospitable spirit, so as occasionally to gather the Society beneath his own roof, and, at all times, be ready to entertain distinguished numismatists and antiquarians from other parts of our country or from foreign lands, thereby worthily representing us, and obtaining for himself an honorable distinction. I have, of course, no reference to mere feasting and banqueting, but rather to intellectual intercourse and a refined sociality. If, for instance, we have among our citizens, at the present moment, a man like the late Philip Hone, it is to him that we have to address ourselves, and to urge him, while taking the Society under his fostering care, to derive therefrom no small accession of honor to himself. To a gentleman of commanding influence in the community it may be matter of just pride to stand at the head of an association founded for liberal researches and elegant pursuits; but an individual of humbler grade, like myself, is better employed in more laborious and less conspicuous functions. Having mentioned that eminent citizen, Mr. Hone, it may not be uninteresting to recall a few incidents of his career, while presenting for your inspection the autograph Catalogue of his Numismatic Cabinet, consisting chiefly of fine foreign medals. They were gathered together at a time when a Collection of this sort, or of any sort, was an extremely unusual thing; and they were sold and dispersed after their proprietor's death, which occurred in May, 1851. The printed Catalogue for this auction is one of the very rarest known. It is valued at \$10.00 by Mr. Woodward, according to whom only three are ascertained to exist. In Dr. Francis's "Old New York", pp. 293-299, is a highly pleasing sketch of Mr. Hone's life and services. Retiring from business with a fortune then considered very great, and which he might have indefinitely increased by persisting in accumulation, he preferred to devote himself to the promotion of important public enterprises and the patronage of the arts. As Mayor of the city in the year 1826, and as Founder of the Mercantile Library, his name will never be forgotten in New York; but it should also be remembered that, though of humble parentage, and scanty original education, he had, at the close of his career, through a natural refinement and nobility of character, not only collected an admirable gallery of paintings, a cabinet of medals, and an extensive library, but had also been long acknowledged as the leader and representative of the best elements of New York society.\*

I shall make it my task to find out such men, if they are still to be met within our community, and to solicit them to enter our Society, hoping, as I do, to renovate it thoroughly and make it correspond to the ideal which I have formed. If from among such new members we shall be able to select one of character and accomplishments such as I have described, I shall be content and desirous, with your permission, to retire to my former office of Corresponding Secretary, which is the one that suits me best and to which I am best suited. But we need, at the same time, in our ranks, men of learning such

\* In the New York Tribune of Saturday, April 18, appeared an article in relation to the "Hone House", corner of Great Jones St. and Broadway, Mr. Hone's property and residence from October, 1837, and the place of his death. The article also communicates interesting information in regard to the fine mansion previously occupied by him, No. 215 Broadway, opposite the Park. We have been assured, on the best authority, that the statements made therein are entirely correct, which is far from being always the case with newspaper antiquarianism. From the same unquestionable authority we are enabled to add one or two facts not generally known. Honesdale, Pa., now a town of more than 6000 inhabitants, was so called after Philip Hone. He was President of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co., and intimately connected with its early history and struggles. He presented to the Episcopal Church there a marble Font, carved by Ball Hughes, a gift in harmony with his delicate taste. For almost a quarter of a century this intelligent and observant gentleman, associating, as he did, familiarly, with those who were most worth knowing in American social life, kept a Diary, which fills 31 MS. volumes. Beginning it in 1827, he continued it faithfully, and made the last entry in a tremulous hand and in touching allusion to his consciousness of the change which was impending, on the 30th day of April 1851, four days before he died. Should it ever be published, it will present a photograph of men and manners now fast receding into oblivion, and testify to the character of the old American merchant as exemplified in its author. Dr. Francis remarks with truth that Mr. Hone's "personal appearance was of an elegant and commanding order". The fine engraving by Durand from a portrait by Peale, contained in Golden's "Memoir" of the New York Canal Celebration, published by the Corporation of the City, 1845, fully substantiates this assertion. The original painting is in the possession of Mr. Hone's son, Robert S. Hone, Esq., to whom his father bequeathed the Diary above mentioned. There is also in the Mercantile Library a marble bust by Clevinger which was subscribed for by certain merchants of the city and presented by them.

as our brotherhood cannot yet boast; we want men well versed in the less familiar languages, in the Arabic, Persian, and other Oriental tongues; we want some profound inquirers into the pre-historic history of man, the new and fascinating study of our day; and we want antiquarians, not merely local, but world-wide in their researches. In regard to Numismatists, we must in every way invite, urge, entreat, or, if we can, compel them to come in and be active members. The present moment is one of much excitement and energy in this attractive pursuit, both at home and abroad, and we see no reason to suppose that this enthusiasm is soon going to abate. Under all the circumstances, and with the germs of vigorous growth already putting forth, we may anticipate for this Society a career of success which may be compared eventually with that of our sister "Historical Society"; for the purport of these remarks is not to discourage, but rather, by pointing out candidly the particulars in which improvement is to be aimed at, to lead to intelligent effort for the accomplishment of that result.

One means must be the making of our semi-monthly meetings as interesting as possible. Let it be our determination that no member or guest shall ever attend one without carrying away information, both numismatic and antiquarian, which he probably could not at all, and certainly could not with such ease, have otherwise obtained. To this end, no member should ever appear without bringing some selections from his cabinet. The principle "Do ut Des," I give that you may give, or, more briefly, "Give and Take," is here the right one. "To him that hath shall be given" should be our motto in regard to the communication of knowledge. It is my intention, therefore while continually presenting to your notice whatever remarkable specimens I may be able to furnish from my own collection, to provide also for the reading of original papers as frequently as possible, and also to adopt the plan, devised and pursued with success in the Rhode Island Numismatic Association, of appointing at each meeting a topic to be discussed at the next one. I therefore announce, as the subject of discussion for the next regular meeting, "The United States Cents of 1793, their History and Varieties," and I invite all our members to exhibit, on that occasion such specimens as they may possess, and to communicate, for our common instruction, such information as they may have been able to acquire. From these discussions if the most valuable facts and opinions be recorded by the Secretary or some other person, and published in the JOURNAL, will arise in time a most important series of numismatic memoranda, affording material to subsequent writers and tending to fullness and accuracy on various subjects comprised within our province.

With this sketch or intimation of the principles that shall actuate me during my term of office, I appeal to your kind indulgence to overlook any errors which I may commit through excess of interest in the Society's welfare, or from any other cause, and confidently anticipate your support and your counsel whenever I shall be laboring with faithfulness for the general good."

The Recording Secretary presented, as a Donation, a Roman bronze vase found in London, a fine specimen of an Indian flint arrow-head, and the iron point of a flag-staff found at the scene of Braddock's surprise by the Indians in 1755.

Mr. Nexsen exhibited a remarkably fine series of English Crowns and Half Crowns from Edward VI. to Victoria.

The President exhibited some foreign Masonic medals of interest; among them a silver one of the Lodge "DES AMIS DE LA PAIX" struck at Paris "22 J. Du 4<sup>e</sup> Mois 5789", April 22, 1789, a few days before the outbreak of the French Revolution; another in silver, weight 2½ oz., of Baron de Stassart, by Hart, reverse a star, in the interior of which, encompassed by a serpent, are a flaming altar and various masonic signs; also a bronze impression of a medal presented by the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands to their Grand-master Prince Frederic, on his marriage to Princess Louisa of Prussia, in 1825. The peculiarity of this latter is that the legends are in the quadrate cipher, or square-shaped secret writing of the strict observance. They are in Latin and may be found interpreted in the "*Numotheca Numismatica Latomorum*" of Zacharias, V., IV., and in Merzdorf's work on Masonic medals, p. 101.

Mr. William Anderson was proposed as Resident Member by Mr. Levick.

Letters were read from Messrs. J. Carson Brevoort, Brooklyn; J. H. Applegate, San Francisco, Cal.; M. J. Cohen, Baltimore; Maj. C. P. Nichols, Springfield, Mass.; W. E. Dubois, of the U. S. Mint, Phila.; A. B. Engstrom, Burlington, N. J.; J. K. Wiggins, Boston, Mass.; and Geo. L. Phillips, Dayton, Ohio.

JAMES OLIVER, Recording Secretary.

Regular Meeting April 23, 1868.—President Anthon in the chair.

The Editorial Committee made a verbal Report, which was accepted as a provisional one.

The following Standing Committees were appointed for the ensuing year: *American Coins and Medals*—Messrs. Jno. F. McCoy, Hewitt, Mackenzie; *Foreign Coins and Medals*—J. A. Nexsen, Oliver, Defendorf; *American Archaeology*—J. Carson Brevoort, Prime, Perine; *Foreign Archaeology*—Rev. Wm. Wood Seymour, Roberts, H. Groh; *Library and Transactions*—Daniel Parish, Jr., Wood, Sanford; *Autographs and MSS.*—E. Y. Ten Eyck, Burns, Hanna; *Paper Money*—E. Groh, Smith, Earle; *Finance*—Dr. Geo. H. Perine, Hanna, Levick.

On motion by Mr. Edward Groh, it was resolved that the JOURNAL be published another year, and that the Editorial Committee for the year consist of the President and Treasurer.

Donations:—Fifty-six American Consular Seals from all parts of the world, presented by Mr. Chas. L. Sauer; Twenty-six Copperhead Tokens from Mr. F. A. Wood; A silver Medal of Genl. Melgarejo and a small East India coin from Mr. J. H. Applegate, San Francisco; Seventeen Political and War Medalets, by True, from Mr. Cleneay, Cincinnati; Twenty-three Postal and Revenue Stamps of Canada, illustrating the modifications introduced on the first of last April, from Mr. A.

Sandham, of Montreal; for all of which the Corresponding Secretary was directed to return the thanks of the Society.

Mr. William Anderson was elected as Resident Member.

Mr. Geo. Leonhardt, Augusta, Ga., was elected a Corresponding Member, on nomination by Mr. E. Groh.

The President read a Paper on "Ducats" illustrated by specimens from his cabinet.

Through want of time, the discussion of the Cents of 1793 was postponed to the next meeting.

The following specimens were exhibited:

1. From the Cabinet of Mr. Jas. Parker, of Springfield, Mass.

A fine silver Medal on the death of Frederic the Great, with bust, and, in REV., a group of trophies, an eagle soaring towards heaven from a smoking urn, and the motto: *RESTAT ALIVD NIHIL*; an impression, in copper, of the Powell Jubilee Marriage Medal, mentioned in this Journal, Vol. II, pp. 60 and 96; "National Jubilee", 1826, white metal; and others.

2. From the Cabinet of Maj. C. P. Nichols, Springfield, Mass.

An exceedingly fine Set of Silver of the English Commonwealth, seven pieces, from the Crown down to the Halfpenny; an impression, in brass, of the De Witt medal, with the portraits of the brothers facing each other, and on the REV. their massacre at the Hague, in 1672, by the mob, typified as various fierce and stupid animals—pictured and described in Bizot, "*Histoire Métrique de la Repub. de Hollande*" p. 280 ff.—; a great number of the rarest and most beautiful of the English tokens of the close of last century, among which we can only particularize Condor's Ipswich Token of Cardinal Wolsey, and the Hereford Token and London Token of John Milton, both marked with his name: together with many others.

3. Through the kindness of Dr. Thos. Addis Emmet, the President was enabled to exhibit:

A specimen of the Japanese ingot of silver known to the English traders from its peculiar form as a shoe, this one weighing between four and five pounds; also the great gold coin called "Obang", equivalent to about ninety-four dollars in coin, used only for imperial presents, and not suffered to go out of the country unless in very exceptional cases. These specimens, both the silver and the gold, are commonly supposed to be pure or nearly so. But this may be questioned. In regard to the latter one, our mentor, Mr. Dubois, writes to us from the Mint: "You ask about the Japanese *oban*. We have had one about six years, exported at the risk of life in that day. It appears to be a mere show-piece or *honorarium*, weighs over 5 oz., spreads out hugely, is largely mixed with silver, and richly pickled, about 667 fine, and worth 75 dollars specie.

JAMES OLIVER, *Recording Secretary*.

#### NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held at its rooms, on Thursday evening, March 19th, 1868, Vice-President C. S. Fellows in the chair. After the reading of the Annual Reports of the officers and committees, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:

*President*, Dr. N. B. Shurtleff; *Vice-President for Maine*, Mr. T. L. Stanton; *Vice-President for New Hampshire*, Mr. H. G. Nutter; *Vice-President for Vermont*, Mr. S. Williams; *Vice-President for Rhode Island*, Mr. J. T. Meader; *Vice-President for Massachusetts*, Mr. T. E. Bond; *Recording Secretary*, Mr. D. R. Child; *Corresponding Secretary*, Mr. C. Chaplin; *Treasurer*, Mr. H. Cook; *Curator*, Mr. S. S. Crosby; *Librarian*, Mr. C. S. Fellows.

After the appointment of Standing Committees and the transaction of other business, the meeting adjourned.

*Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 16*,—Vice-President T. E. Bond occupying the chair.

After the transaction of the regular business, a letter was read by one of the members from a distinguished European numismatist, in which was described a beautiful and rare piece of Colonial coinage, which has recently been discovered and is believed to be unique—a "Baltimore Copper"—not the penny figured in Ruding and sold in Mickley's late sale, but an original strike or trial piece in fine copper, and from the original die of the "Baltimore Shilling," with the same obverse and reverse. It is very clear and sharp, and not a modern fac-simile, but indisputably a trial piece. It is considered one of the gems of the collection in which it belongs, and should form an object of notoriety among American collectors.

There were also exhibited by various members the following interesting specimens: A gold "Angel" of Henry VII, in very fine condition; a rare silver one franc piece of Napoleon I., dated 1806, proof; a silver one franc piece of Henry V. of France, dated 1831, which is very rare, from the fact that, although heir to the throne, he never occupied it; a Massachusetts and California 5 dollar piece dated 1849, struck in silver, having the coat of arms of California on the obverse; a fine collection of "copperhead" shop cards, consisting of 423 pieces, all different; several specimens of American and a lot of 17 English and Turkish war medals; also a unique medallion of Washington.

An animated discussion on several numismatic subjects was carried on among the members, which was only brought to a close by the lateness of the hour, when the meeting adjourned.

### BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, April 9, at the regular hour. The report of the previous meeting was read and accepted. The resignation of Mr. Nourse was communicated by the Treasurer, and by vote of the Society was accepted. Mr. Davenport presented some ancient silver coins, and on behalf of Mr. W. Munroe four plates of Venetian coins. Mr. Davenport also exhibited a specimen of the Samaritan shekel, and a gold Washington mourning medal with funeral urn. Mr. Pratt exhibited another shekel of a type quite different from that just mentioned, and fifty bronze medals lately received from Berlin. These medals commemorate a great variety of events and persons, and present an equal variety of design, almost always however such as to claim admiration; they were examined with attention and interest, and received the praise they deserved. The Secretary showed the bronze medal lately struck in honor of Joseph J. Mickley, President of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, and a proof set of the coins of Queen Victoria of 1839, which includes the rare five-pound piece with the design of Una and the lion, and to which the pattern florin and Gothic crown have been added. The Society adjourned just before 5 P. M.

### RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

*Regular Meeting, April 20th, 1868.*

The meeting was called to order at the usual hour, the President in the chair. The Secretary's report of the last meeting was accepted.

Letters were read from Messrs. W. E. Woodward, of Roxbury, Mass., and Desmond Fitzgerald, of Indianapolis, Ind.

The President, Secretary, and Mr. Gorton, exhibited a number of Jackson medals and tokens, including several rare varieties in very fine condition.

After an interesting conversation concerning the origin and growth of some of the principal American numismatic collections, the Association adjourned to May 18th.

G. D. HERSEY, *Secretary.*

### A LETTER FROM MR. STICKNEY.

Prof. CHARLES E. ANTHON,

SALEM, APRIL 30, 1868.

Dear Sir:—You notice in your last Journal (No. 24) a piece of money of the siege of Mayence. I find I have in my cabinet, the one, two and five Sol pieces, which the French issued during the siege of Mayence, said to have been struck from the bells of its Cathedral.

The French, until near the close of the siege, made their payments in the gold and silver coins of their country; but when the town was invested by the Prussians, and their supply of the precious metals failed, they had recourse to stamped paper and bell metal, which had no value but what was agreed to be given them. Both were, on the capitulation, called in and destroyed; and the agent of the French Republic gave orders payable to the bearer at Paris for the debts of the French army. Este, an English tourist, states that he was one of the first to enter the city after its capitulation, and that he could not obtain at his banker's, or elsewhere, specimens of either. Those in my possession bear on the Obv. "Republique Francaise 1793 L'An 2<sup>e</sup>." Roman fasces surmounted by a Liberty Cap.

Rev. "Monoye De Siege De Mayence" "5 Sols." Size 19.

The inscriptions on the others are the same, excepting the value: the "2 Sols." size 15½, and "1 Sol." size 14.

The King of Prussia, during the siege, struck Crowns, Louis D'Ors and double Louis, dated 1788, with the head of the King of France, but of less weight.

I add to the above a few other obsidional Coins:

Corsica, Pascal Paoli, born in Genoa, died 1807 in London, England. Obv. between two mermaids, Paoli's head in Roman dress. Rev. between two palm leaves "4 soldi 1765", Copper, size 13½.

Lille, Obv. The coat of arms of the Marshal of Boulevers with six French standards and two marshal's sticks.

Rev. XX S. (Sous) Pro Defensione Urbis. Et. Patriæ. 1708. Copper, size 19.

Limerick, a rare siege piece struck after the battle of the Boyne, by the adherents of James II. Obv. "Jacobus II. Dei Gratia" with the impression of his head. Rev. "Hibernia 1691", Ireland represented by a woman sitting, and resting upon a harp, and holding up a cross in her right hand. Gun and Bell metal, size 17, See Ruding, Vol. 2, p. 28; and Simon, No. LXXXVIII of Appendix.

Tyrol, Coined in the time of the revolution in 1809, under Andreas Hofer, who was executed by the French on the 21st of November, 1809, in Milan. Obv. "Gefürstete Grafschaft Tirol" Eagle—Rev. "Ein Kreuzer 1809" Copper, size 15.

Galizien und Lodomerien, formerly part of Poland, Obv. "Monet Aer Exercit Caes Reg." The Double Eagle with six Ensigns. Rev. "III Grossi Pol. 1794" Copper, size 17. Also the "1 Grossvs Pol. 1794," Copper, size 14. Both coined in the time of Kosciusko.

I have used the scale of the Num. Society of Phila. I could give descriptions of others, but do not know whether they would be new to your subscribers, or worthy of notice in your Journal.

Yours truly,

M. A. STICKNEY.

## ANOTHER "FOUR" DOLLAR.

Since the sale of Mr. Mickley's genuine and original piece of this denomination to Mr. Lilliendahl, last Fall, and its subsequent acquisition by Mr. Appleton, collectors have till recently imagined that the market was exhausted of that "rara avis", and that no amount of money likely to be offered could procure another. But behold what Day has revealed to those who thus mourned in darkness! A specimen has come to light said to be superior even to Mr. Appleton's, a genuine impression too with the circumscription on the edge. It is perhaps not generally known that in 1858 certain dollars of 1804, re-struck from the original dies, without the collar, and therefore having plain edges, found their way out of the mint. Major Nichols, of Springfield, had one of these at the cost of \$75, and Mr. Cogan had one; but both were on solicitation returned to their source. Those re-struck, during President Jackson's administration, to furnish specimens for the Imam of Muscat, were properly inscribed on the edge, and in all respects, therefore, like the original issue. How many of them there were, we know not. We have heard it asserted that there were as many as fifty. The one at present under notice is thought to be an original. The mother of the recent proprietor obtained it in Philadelphia at some time during President Polk's administration. Hearing of the high price paid for Mr. Mickley's, this lady exclaimed: "Why, I have an 1804 dollar!" "Impossible!" replied her son; but, on investigation, the "impossible" became fact, and the result is that the piece has passed into the hands of a third party. For further particulars inquire of the present owner.

## NUMISMATIC SALES—PAST, AND TO COME.

A thrill of surprise ran through the coin-collecting circle of our city, when, a few weeks ago, there arrived from Toronto sundry "Descriptive Catalogues" of "The Eves Collection," to be sold there at Auction, April 21st, and the following days. They were hailed with pleasure as showing signs of numismatic life in that flourishing emporium, but doubt was succeeded by disappointment as the experts turned over their pages. Making every allowance for a swarm of typographic blunders, we are nevertheless malicious enough to extract the following specimen bricks from this literary and scientific structure:—Lot 171. "1 Dol. Spread Eagle 13 Stars, good." Whether an 1804 or not, is of no moment.—Lot 219. "1 Shekel, &c. These pieces are very valuable, being extremely rare and seldom to be found in any collection. At a Coin sale in New York, four years last June, a Jewish Shekel sold for \$500, and are now supposed to be worth \$1,000." This assertion is neither *vero* nor *ben trovato*.—Lot 323. "1815 Very good. This cent is the scarcest of all the American cents, and is only to be found in very few collections, extraordinarily rare and in fine condition, and a cent to be greatly desired." Undoubtedly the great desideratum. Lot 449. "Sommer Island shilling, &c. The above coin may not be genuine." Probably not.

Now as to this Sale in Toronto, and two others which have recently occurred in Montreal, we take the liberty to quote from a kind and attentive correspondent who lives beneath the shadow of the Royal Mountain. We preserve his incognito, however, since he may reproach us otherwise with not having sufficiently shielded his dignity, when he was in playful mood:

"We have had some exciting times in Montreal, lately; that is, in the Numismatic portion of our city. First, we had the sale advertised, in Toronto, which, by the by, was a failure. Some of the pieces, I believe, were sold by private sale; but the great *bulk* of the collection remains in the hands of the owner, who wishes to sell them privately. I shall send you a catalogue, with his prices attached, which I think will startle you somewhat. If you would like to buy the 1815 cent, for instance, he will sell it singly, as it is RARE! But, to stick closer to home, on the 14th of April, 1868, the following advertisement appeared in our city papers:

TO members of the Numismatic Society and others. RARE COINS. The Subscribers will sell at their Rooms, 139 Great St. James Street, on SATURDAY EVENING next, the 18th instant, a large and valuable collection of RARE, ANCIENT and MODERN COINS, among which are Roman, Grecian, Chinese, Turkish, Spanish, Prussian, French, Swedish, and English. Together with a select Library of French and English BOOKS, comprising Dramatic Works, Histories, Belles Letters, &c. Sale at Seven o'clock.

DEVANY & CO., Auctioneers.

None but those interested in such matters can imagine the excitement into which our fraternity were thrown. During the days which elapsed from the appearance of the advertisement, to the time of *sale*, you might observe first, one collector and then another, dodging into the Auction Room for the purpose of inspecting the rare coins (particularly the GRECIAN). But the time arrived, and gathered within the Hall might be seen the various officers and privates of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, with many of the uninitiated, curious to see who were going to be "foolish enough to give a large price for an old copper." The rarity of the coins may be inferred from the fact, that they were very carefully rolled up in packages of 12 or 14, which were then sold at "so much each and take the lot." The excitement was kept up during the evening. There was animated bidding upon some lots, especially on one. "How much for this lot of 24 fine specimens?" "20 cents!" says one; "22!" another; "24!" is heard again; "25" is finally reached, and they are knocked down, Mr. Joshua L. Bronson, President of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal, being declared the fortunate purchaser of the SMALL CHANGE. But, to speak seriously, if I can: The sale was poor, the coins were ditto. There were 873 sold in 129 lots, and they realized \$70! On the following day, those who had been present at the sale were all to be found where sensible men should be—at their business; and their course was not ruffled, nor did numismatic dangers strew their path, until April 27th, 1868, on which eventful day an "Interesting sale of Old Coins, Books, &c." was advertised to take place.

Along with several others, I wended my way towards the spot where the *sell* was to be. After knocking down a *valuable* lot of about 150 volumes of old Books, at 3 half-pence each, the Coins were introduced, and the following address was made by the Auctioneer: "Gentlemen, I have now come to the most valuable portion of the catalogue. The Coins I will now offer are very rare, and were much prized by the owner. There are some specimens for which we have been offered \$5 at private sale, but they must be sold by Auction to carry out the terms of the will. Any person purchasing must pay cash and take the goods at once, as we will not be responsible for their safe keeping; and I would say that we shall commence with the silver coins, of which there are a large number. I shall empty all these coins upon a tray, and pass them round; and if, on their return to me, I find one missing, I shall search every person going out." (At this point, I felt very much like going out before he passed them round, as I had in my pocket an old Saxon Crown; and what if some honest collector should steal a piece and get away, while I should be found with an old coin in my pocket. But not being of a very timid disposition, I stood my ground, without troubling my mind with dreams of police, jail, &c., and the Auctioneer proceeded.) "Now, I shall sell these at so much each, and the first purchaser may take one, or the lot, or as many as he likes to pick out." So the sale commenced; and when the first lot was knocked down to a gentleman, at 45 cents each, we all waited to see him pick out those that were worth 50 cents. He was not, however, a speculator, but a genuine collector; and I honor him for the manner in which he chose his coins. They were all picked with a view to place in his collection specimens he was not already possessed of. The next buyer made more money than the owner, for he got about face value in coins for his purchase, and the owner had to pay the commission.

But some of the rarer ones were yet to be sold. "Now, gentlemen, I have no doubt that you have read of the 'Good Samaritan,' who took the wounded man to an inn and left some money with the proprietor to pay for nursing and keeping him. The coins he gave were those of Cæsar, and are very rare. The piece I hold in my hand is one of those coins, and bears the name and bust of Cæsar." Of course I wanted to see this rare coin; and, when it was passed to me, I found it to be a very good specimen of a Charles 1st sixpence, with four C's interlinked. This was sold for what it was worth, about 1 shilling, the audience being either better posted in coins, or else having but little confidence in the Auctioneer. This was about the style and manner in which the sale was conducted, and I suppose it realized about \$30 or \$40. The only articles which interested me were some very rare old views of the City of Montreal, of which I became the possessor at a low figure.

So, now, don't think that New York is the only place to have a sale, for we can raise one occasionally; at any rate, often enough to relieve the monotony of our winter months."

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The Sale of Mr. James Oliver's Collection is announced for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 3rd, 4th, and 5th, at the Auction Rooms of Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co. The Catalogue is neatly and correctly printed, and arranged with judgment, so as to combine scientific classification with that distribution, as far as may be, of a portion of each prominent class of coins into each afternoon's sale, which tends to secure a full attendance of purchasers. Mr. Oliver's Cabinet falls under the head which we are fond of terming "Rational Numismatics", his specimens being illustrations of History and Art, not mere rarities. In many instances, however, both these kinds of value attach to them, as is the case, for example, with the celebrated "Oxford Pound Piece" of Charles I., bought by Mr. Oliver at the late Mickley sale, for \$40. The chief Departments of the Collection are: Roman Family Coins; Roman Imperial Coins; English Coins from the Conqueror to Victoria; English, French and Italian Medals, in silver and bronze; Canadian and other British Colonial Pieces. They are all in fine condition; and, as this will be the first public coin-sale in our city since the close of Mr. Mickley's, just seven months previous to the day appointed for the beginning of Mr. Oliver's, we anticipate for the latter an abundant share of success. He deserves it, at any rate, in view of the rare discrimination and taste with which he has brought together the collection whence amateurs have now an opportunity to select; and it is in their own interest that we invite them to give it due attention.

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RECENT WORKS OF NUMISMATIC ARTISTS.—Mr. Geo. H. Lovett, the well-known Medalist, and member of our Society, has presented us with a specimen-series of a new and peculiar kind of copper currency, struck at his mint, for a plantation in the island of Cuba. These curious pieces, four in number, bear on the Obv. the Legend *ESPERANZA*, which is the name of the plantation, and *V. R. & CO.*, the initials of its proprietors; and, on the Rev., the respective values, from 20 down to 2½ Centavos, with such differences of ornamentation as to make them distinguishable by the illiterate slaves among whom they are intended to circulate, in that region of "Hope" to their masters and none to themselves.

Mr. Wm. H. Key, of Philadelphia, has recently produced a Medal, size 24, ordered, as the inscription on the Rev. denotes, by the "Ev. Lutheran Church" of America, as a Memorial of the "Seventh Jubilee of the Great Reformation", 1867. The Obv. has a bust of Luther, with the legend *NOMEN DOMINI TURRIS FORTISSIMA.*, and the date 1517. It is very chaste and effective. The purpose of those who have issued it is to send a copy in bronze to each of the Numismatic Societies in the country, also to strike to order some specimens in silver and copper, to supply collectors. Applications may be addressed "Lutheran Book Store," 807 Vine Street, Phila.

Numbers 1 and 2 of our Third Volume are sent herewith to several Institutions, Societies and Individuals, not yet counted among our Subscribers, but whom we are very desirous of enrolling as such. Our JOURNAL is a source of entertainment and instruction to many persons, and seems to fill a vacancy in our periodical literature. It has reached a point in its existence where a little aid will render it both permanent and better worthy of support ; and we look confidently for such assistance, not merely from numismatic amateurs, but from all public-spirited citizens of literary taste. We shall continue, therefore, to forward our publication, monthly, to all who now receive it for the first time, as well as to our actual subscribers ; and we trust that the former will not countermand it, but will, in due time, honor the little documents by which we shall invite their pecuniary co-operation ; or, in other words, will remit the annual subscription of Three Dollars, when requested, to Mr. Levick, the Business-Editor.